

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, September 21, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. J. Stuart Adams, Senate Chair
Rep. Michael E. Noel, House Chair
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Pres. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Fred C. Cox
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway

Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Ken Ivory
Rep. Holly J. Richardson
Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox

Members Absent:

Rep. Patrick Painter

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hemingway moved to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. McAdams, Sen. Urquhart, Pres. Waddoups, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Hendrickson, Rep. Richardson, and Rep. Wilcox absent for the vote.

2. Electronic Board Meetings: Charter School Report

Mr. John Howard, Board Member, Odyssey Charter School Board, briefed committee members on the results of a pilot program for electronic board meetings which was authorized by 2011 General Session H.B. 106, "Electronic Meetings Revisions," and sponsored by Rep. Bradley Daw. Mr. Howard indicated that the meeting was held in a blog format which worked well. He said they would like to see the time frame of the meeting extended from one day up to one week to allow more input by parents and board members.

Rep. Daw requested that the Committee consider opening a bill file to increase the time frame of the electronic meeting to a week with a 24-hour notice prior to online voting of board members.

Rep. Daw and Mr. Howard responded to committee members' questions.

MOTION: Rep. Cox moved that the Committee open a bill file to make modifications to 2011 General Session H.B. 106, "Electronic Meeting Revisions." The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Urquhart, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Hendrickson, and Rep. Wilcox absent for the vote.

Chair Adams turned the gavel over to Rep. Noel.

3. Energy Tax Incentive Legislation – 2012 General Session

Sen. Adams led a committee discussion focused on energy tax incentive legislation that is currently being drafted. He discussed provisions of the legislation, which will include a defined process to make it easier for people to meet incentive requirements.

Mr. Jeff Hartley, Responsible Energy Developers Forum, spoke in support of energy tax incentive legislation.

Ms. Amanda Smith, Governor's Energy Advisor, agreed that energy tax incentive legislation could help to bring energy production into Utah.

Chair Noel returned the gavel to Sen. Adams.

4. Green Jobs

Mr. Kimball Rasmussen, President and CEO, Deseret Power, presented and discussed "A Rational Look at Green Jobs." Mr. Rasmussen discussed the findings of a study called the Jobs and Economic Development Impact model, or JEDI, and concluded that far fewer jobs would be created than claimed by proponents of the American Clean Energy Act.

Mr. Rob Adams, Director, Property Development, Renewable Energy Development Corporation (REDCO), discussed the development and implications of creating green jobs in a rural county. He concurred with Mr. Rasmussen that there are fewer green jobs, but noted that green jobs provide higher compensation.

Mr. Ryan Lambert, Vice President of Community Energy, REDCO, discussed his experience working and creating green jobs.

5. Utah Energy Advisor Report

Ms. Smith distributed "Energy Initiatives & Imperatives: Utah's 10-Year Strategic Energy Plan" and "Oil, Gas and Coal: Conventional Energy in Utah." Ms. Smith also distributed and reviewed "Governor's Energy Advisor Report." She briefed committee members on energy development and research in Utah and Governor Herbert's 10-Year Energy Initiative.

Ms. Samantha Julian, Director, Office of Energy Development (OED), discussed the role of OED since its creation by 2011 General Session H.B. 475, "State Energy Amendments."

Mr. Ted Wilson, Governor's Energy Task Force, spoke in support of Governor Herbert's 10-Year Energy Initiative and the importance of bringing energy issues into the state.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Handy moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. McAdams, Sen. Okerlund, Pres. Waddoups, Rep. Dougall, and Rep. Ivory absent for the vote.

Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.